PO George Campbell Reason J/90353 RCAF



George was born on 6 November 1924 in Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada, the son of Thomas Gilbert Reason and Sarah Gladys Reason nee Campbell.

Educated at Gledhill Avenue Public School and Danforth Technical School, Toronto, in August 1942 George volunteered for service in the RCAF.

Employed as a munition's worker by Acme Screw & Gear, in November 1942, the day after his 18th birthday, George was called up for training.

George completed his flying training in Canada in September 1943 with the award of his WOp/AG badge and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 2 (O) Advanced Flying Unit RAF Millom, Cumbria, 22 OTU at RAF Wellesbourne Mountford, Warwickshire, 61 Base, RAF Topcliffe, Yorkshire and 1666 HCU RAF Wombleton, Yorkshire, in June 1944 George was posted to 433 Sqn at RAF Skipton-on-Swale, Yorkshire, transferring to 415 Sqn on 20 July 1944 at RAF East Moor, Yorkshire.

On 28/29 July 1944 415 Sqn was tasked with an op to Hamburg, the first heavy raid since the Battle of Hamburg over a year ago. A combined force of 307 aircraft was allocated to the task, including sixteen 415 Sqn crews. This raid was the first op for the squadron on its transfer from Coastal Command to Bomber Command.

At 22:25 George, operating as the Wireless Operator, and the crew departed RAF East Moor, Yorkshire in Halifax LW595 (6U-Q) "Queen of Them All". Nothing further was heard from the crew.

Post war investigations revealed that George's aircraft crashed at Stotel, Cuxhaven, south of Bremerhaven, Lower Saxony, killing eight of the nine-man crew. The Bomb Aimer survived and was taken as POW.

Also Killed: FO Dugald Morrison RCAF (Pilot); FO George Kenneth Renaud RCAF (Nav); FO Arthur George Stein RCAF (Pilot); PO Lloyd William McElroy RCAF (AG); PO Alfred Wilfred Prosofsky RCAF (AG); PO Walter Dennis Robertson RCAF (AG); Sgt Angus McLeod MacIver (FE)

Originally buried in Geestemunde Cemetery, in November 1946 George was moved to Becklingen War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany.

George is commemorated on Wall Panel – 230

George was posthumously commissioned, backdated to 27 July 1944

George's brother, Signalman James Gilbert Reason, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, was KIA on 16 December 1944.

Photo Source: findagrave